



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
MIREL-551	Politics in the Middle East	10
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
None	Politics and Governance	Fall or Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Core	Eastern Mediterranean Studies	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
2 nd Cycle	Prof. Farid Mirbagheri	1 st
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Conventional	N/A	N/A

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Trace the origins of the Middle East since the birth of Islam.
- Examine Islam as a religion and a political force.
- Examine Pan-Arabism and its historical relations with Persians, the Jewry and the Ottomans.
- Bring into focus the influence of outside players and assess their impact on the developments in the Middle East

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

- Develop a deepened understanding of law, human rights, politics, socio-religious, cultural in their varied contexts within the Islamic & Middle Eastern world
- To assess the importance of the region in terms of culture and geopolitics
- Have a solid grounding in the historical development of Middle East since the birth of Islam
- To illustrate the former dominance of Middle Eastern powers and their domination later by the Europeans
- Critically analyze socio-political issues distinctive to the Middle East & Islamic world, interpret and reflect upon to different approaches to jurisprudence, religion, politics and human rights within Middle East World
- Participate in debates, present critical, comprehend arguments and evaluate complex

- issues both orally and in written form
- Conduct research according to analytical frameworks relating to the area of Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies with a minimal amount of assistance
- Communicate in English language both orally and in written form at (near) native level.
- Use IT skills (word processing, Internet, e-mail) as study and communication tools.
- Locate, analyze, synthesize, and effectively use sources of libraries, bibliographical material and academic research.

Course Content:

Historical background to Pre-Islamic Era.

The Birth of Islam.

What was Islam to the Arabs?

The Outward Expansion of Arabs and their Early Conquests.

The Rise and Fall of the Umayyids and the Abbasids.

Islamic Civilisation.

The Crusades.

The Beginnings of the European Influence in the Region.

The Modern Middle East.

Establishment of Israel.

The Revival of Islam.

The Future of the Middle East.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, discussions, individual guidance, individual study.

Assessment Methods:

Presentation, Essay, Mid-term Test, Final Exam

Readings:

Goldschmidt, Arthur Jr. and Lawrence Davidson, A Concise History of the Middle East (11th edition), The American University in Cairo Press, 2015.

Mirbagheri, Farid, War & Peace in Islam, London: Palgrave, 2012.